

VZCZCXYZ0007
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPS #0381 1250725
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 050725Z MAY 06
FM USOFFICE PRISTINA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6075
INFO RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 3385
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0356
RUEHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 0810

UNCLAS PRISTINA 000381

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OTRA](#) [PINR](#) [SR](#) [ASEC](#) [YI](#)
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO INR BALKAN ANALYST
ROBERT NASH

REF: SECSTATE 66433

11. US Office Pristina welcomes and grants country clearance to INR Balkan Analyst Robert Nash to visit Pristina May 18 to May 20, 2006. The purpose of the visit is to meet with host government officials and representatives of political parties and other groups on domestic and regional issues. Control Officer for this visit is Pol Officer Carrie Shirtz, who can be reached at: office 381-38-549-516 ext. 3195; GSM 377-44-500-972; fax 381-38-549-890.

12. Post will coordinate arrangements for overland travel from Belgrade. Accommodations have been confirmed at Hotel Victory, Tel# 038/543-277. www.hotel-victory.com. The Hotel Victory accepts cash only. The room rate is Euro 73.90 a night, including breakfast.

13. Kosovo is a cash (Euro) economy. There are a few operating ATMs and some large stores and hotels take credit cards. Not all ATMS are reliable and personnel should use normal ATM safety precautions. TDY personnel should bring sufficient cash or travelers' checks to cover all hotel and other incidental expenses and may exchange dollars for Euros from 9:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:00pm each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 9:00am-11:30am each Thursday at the U.S. Office cashier. Only USOP accepts travelers' checks. Reverse accommodation is available at the end of the visit.

14. Security issues: The security situation in Kosovo is fluid and there is still risk from occasional episodes of violence; incidents of ethnic violence continue to occur. Land mines remain in some outlying areas. Civil society institutions generally do not yet meet Western standards. There is criminal activity against internationals, including purse snatching and residential break-ins and general precautions are recommended. KFOR is deployed throughout Kosovo. Electronic devices such as laptops (personal or official), PDA cell phones with cameras, and the like must be approved for use in USOP facilities by an ISSO in consultation with the RSO.

15. Travel to certain areas within Kosovo requires fully armored vehicles and advance RSO approval. To facilitate planning, please provide your travel itinerary to USOP before arrival, as same-day travel can be difficult to arrange. To provide appropriate access to USOP facilities, visitors must ensure all necessary security clearances are included with travel messages.

16. Please ensure ASEC tags are included to ensure proper distribution. Specific questions regarding security may be addressed to USOP's RSO or your control officer.

GOLDBERG